

MASSACHUSETTS RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

BOREAL WORMWOOD

(Artemisia campestris L. ssp. borealis (Pall.) Hall & Clements)

DESCRIPTION

Boreal Wormwood is a somewhat fragrant perennial with a tap-root that has several stems branching from its thickened top. These leafy stems are 8-20" (20-50cm.) tall and produce tiny yellowish flowers from July to September. The tufted basal leaves are 2-5" (5-13cm.) long, crowded, and divided into linear lobes. This species is very similar to Tall Wormwood of seashores and sand dunes, but is smaller, more compact, and perennial rather than biennial.

HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS

This wormwood is found on dry, exposed, sandstone ledges. The plant grows in small cracks in bare places with little or no vegetation immediately near by.

RANGE

Boreal Wormwood is circumboreal in distribution, extending south to the northern regions of Maine, Vermont, and Michigan. The Massachusetts population is disjunct and represents the southern limit of its range.

POPULATION STATUS

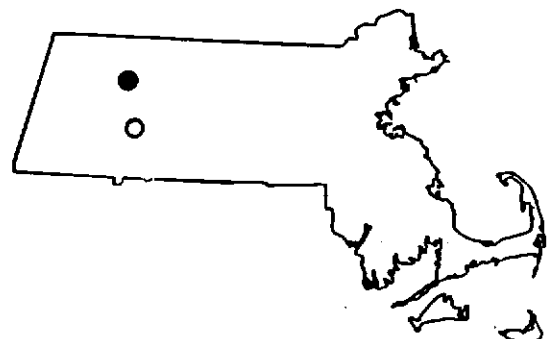
This species is considered "Endangered" in Massachusetts. Currently, 1978 to present, only one occurrence has been found on the Sugarloaf mountains, where plants are numerous and vigorous. Historically, only one other occurrence has been vouchered in the state. This plant is rare because of lack of suitable habitat in the state.



Gleason, H.A. The New Britton and Brown
Illustrated Flora of the Northeastern U.S.
and Adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden,
1952.



Distribution of Boreal Wormwood



● Verified since 1978
○ Reported prior to 1978

Distribution in Massachusetts by Town